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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "To Renew an Old Coat" ... Information from the Bureau of Home Economics,
U. S. Department of Agriculture

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To buy or not to buy. That is the question. Whether 'tis better to spruce up the old winter coat for one more season's wear...or to make the coat over into something else.

Chances are...the old coat would do ... with a bit of renovating. If you're going to spruce it up yourself...here are some tips from clothing specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture you'll find helpful.

Is there a hole or tear in the coat? Mend it with yarn taken from the coat. You can ravel the yarn from a straight inside seam and use it to get an invisible mend or darn.

What about button holes? Are they beginning to unravel? Fasten off the thread to stop the raveling and then rework the buttonhole. You may need to machine stitch around the hole close to the edge before you rework it. The renewed buttonhole may call for larger buttons. That's your cue to replace the old coat buttons with some of the large decorative buttons that are now in style.

For an underarm lining repair...make shields of lining cloth. You can tack these in. And they'll do double duty. They'll take the rub and they'll serve as patches to hold the frayed lining in place.

To mend a frayed lining...use fabric that matches or harmonizes with it. Facings will make the lining neat again at cuffs...neck or hem.

If you must replace the lining...let the old one help you. Try not to stretch or tear it as you take it out of the coat. Then use the old lining as a pattern to cut the new one. Put the lining in loosely..so the coat won't draw.

A good pressing is the final touch of a beauty treatment for an old coat. Steam press the coat carefully...gently stretching the lining smooth to make sure it doesn't wrinkle...and you may discover that "to buy or not to buy" is no longer the question. You can wear the old coat with pride.

